

His efforts are a classic American story of how one person with a cause can make a difference. I am pleased to see democracy work in such a commendable manner. This is indeed how our Government was set up to work and I am pleased to support his efforts, and those of SPAN, on behalf of so many Americans.

It is time to lift the veil of secrecy and begin the effort to heal the wounds and take the steps to prevent unnecessary loss of life.

It is time to continue the effort for mental health parity and ensure all who need assistance, get the assistance they need, without stigma.

The resolution I submit today with my colleagues I hope will be the first step in focussing awareness on the need for suicide prevention and addressing the need for a national strategy. No life should be lost when there is an opportunity to prevent its loss.

Not one of the nearly 31,000 lives lost to suicide annually is insignificant. These are the children, parents, grandparents, brothers, sisters, friends, co-workers, and neighbors of each and every one of us.

Few of us can say we do not know someone who has been personally touched by this tragedy.

I lost my father to suicide many years ago. I also know of several others who have just recently experienced the loss of a loved one to suicide.

Mr. President, I am honored to submit this resolution today and hope my colleagues will join me in taking the first step to making a difference in this very preventable public health tragedy.

I intend to offer legislation this session which will be vital in taking a necessary first step by calling for the establishment of injury control research centers which will deal exclusively with the subject of suicide. We need a focal point where we can develop expertise on suicide and share this expertise with others interested in getting involved.

I am pleased to lend my voice to this worthy cause and I am very happy to have Senator's MURRAY, WELLSTONE, and COVERDELL joining me in this effort.

I would also like to thank Jerry Weyrauch from SPAN and Dr. Lanny Berman from the American Association of Suicidology and Dr. Jane Pearson from the National Institute of Mental Health for their leadership in this field.

I also want to acknowledge the countless professionals and volunteers across America who staff the crisis call lines; facilitate the workshops and support groups determined to help survivors go forward after such a loss; organize and implement prevention programs; conduct the research and evaluation to understand the causes of suicidal behavior; provide the treatment and support; and the many brave families and survivors who go on helping others to put the pieces back together again.

Mr. President, we have before us today an opportunity to take the critical first step. I hope my colleagues will join me by overwhelmingly supporting this Senate resolution.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 84—RECOGNIZING SUICIDE AS A NATIONAL PROBLEM

Mr. REID (for himself, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. WELLSTONE, Mr. COVERDELL, Mr. BREAUX, and Ms. LANDRIEU) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 84

Whereas suicide, the ninth leading cause of all deaths in the United States and the third such cause for young persons ages 15 through 24, claims over 31,000 lives annually, more than homicide;

Whereas suicide attempts, estimated to exceed 750,000 annually, adversely impact the lives of millions of family members;

Whereas suicide completions annually cause over 200,000 family members to grieve over and mourn a tragic suicide death for the first time, thus creating a population of over 4,000,000 such mourners in the United States;

Whereas the suicide completion rate per 100,000 persons has remained relatively stable over the past 40 years for the general population, and that rate has nearly tripled for young persons;

Whereas that suicide completion rate is highest for adults over 65;

Whereas the stigma associated with mental illness works against suicide prevention by keeping persons at risk of completing suicide from seeking lifesaving help;

Whereas the stigma associated with suicide deaths seriously inhibits surviving family members from regaining meaningful lives;

Whereas suicide deaths impose a huge unrecognized and unmeasured economic burden on the United States in terms of potential years of life lost, medical costs incurred, and work time lost by mourners;

Whereas suicide is a complex, multifaceted biological, sociological, psychological, and societal problem;

Whereas even though many suicides are currently preventable, there is still a need for the development of more effective suicide prevention programs;

Whereas suicide prevention opportunities continue to increase due to advances in clinical research, in mental disorder treatments, and in basic neuroscience, and due to the development of community-based initiatives that await evaluation; and

Whereas suicide prevention efforts should be encouraged to the maximum extent possible: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes suicide as a national problem and declares suicide prevention to be a national priority;

(2) acknowledges that no single suicide prevention program or effort will be appropriate for all populations or communities;

(3) encourages initiatives dedicated to—

(A) preventing suicide;

(B) responding to people at risk for suicide and people who have attempted suicide;

(C) promoting safe and effective treatment for persons at risk for suicidal behavior;

(D) supporting people who have lost someone to suicide; and

(E) developing an effective national strategy for the prevention of suicide; and

(4) encourages the development, and the promotion of accessibility and affordability, of mental health services, to enable all persons at risk for suicide to obtain the services, without fear of any stigma.

#### AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED

#### SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT

##### WELLSTONE AMENDMENT NO. 57

Mr. WELLSTONE proposed an amendment to the bill (S. 672) making supplemental appropriations and rescissions for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, and for other purposes; as follows:

Beginning on page 47, strike line 19 and all that follows through page 48, line 12.

##### WESSSTONE AMENDMENT NO. 58

Mr. WELLSTONE proposed an amendment to the bill, S. 672, supra; as follows:

At the end of title III, add the following:

SEC. 326. The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall—

(1) make available under section 2604(g) of the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Act of 1981 (42 U.S.C. 8623(g)), \$45,000,000 in assistance described in such Act to victims of flooding and other natural disasters in Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota, for fiscal year 1997; and

(2) make the assistance available from funds appropriated to carry out such Act prior to the date of enactment of this section.

##### BYRD AMENDMENT NO. 59

(Ordered to lie on the table.)

Mr. BYRD submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill, S. 672, supra; as follows:

On page 81, beginning with line 1, strike all through page 85, line 9.

##### STEVENS AMENDMENT NO. 60

Mr. STEVENS proposed an amendment to the bill, S. 672, supra; as follows:

On line 1, page 37 of the bill, after the colon, strike all through "1997" on line 15 of page 37, and insert the following: "Provided further, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, such additional authority shall be distributed to ensure that States receive amounts that they would have received had the Highway Trust Fund fiscal year 1994 income statement not been understated prior to the revision on December 24, 1996; and that notwithstanding any other provision of law, an amount of obligational authority in addition to the amount distributed above, shall be made available by this Act and shall be distributed to assure that States receive obligational authority that they would have received had the Highway Trust Fund fiscal year 1995 income statement not been revised on December 24, 1996: *Provided further*, That such additional authority shall be distributed to ensure that no State shall receive an amount in fiscal year 1997 that is less than the amount a State received in fiscal year 1996"

##### FAIRCLOTH AMENDMENT NO. 61

(Ordered to lie on the table.)

Mr. FAIRCLOTH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill, S. 672, supra; as follows: